

*Sub B*

1. (Amended) A telecommunications switch comprising:  
a plurality of optical inputs;  
a plurality of optical outputs;  
an optical switch that operates with a schedule not directly determined by the input stream, the schedule of the optical switch being changed to have unbalanced periods in response to imbalance in traffic; and  
a plurality of reordering units that rearrange the order of data units within data streams to correspond to the schedule of the switch.

*Sub A*

11. (Amended) A telecommunications switch as claimed in claim 1 wherein the switch schedule is determined by the average load between inputs and outputs.

*Sub B*

13. (Amended) The method of switching data streams comprising:  
operating an optical switch with a schedule not directly determined by the input stream, the schedule of the optical switch being changed to have unbalanced periods in response to imbalance in traffic; and  
rearranging the order of data units within data streams to correspond to the schedule of the switch.

*Sub A*

23. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 13 wherein the switch schedule is determined by the average load between inputs and outputs.